

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
July 27, 2005

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*Please note: Upon further investigation, the North Dakota Department of Health has determined that the male 60 or older who tested positive for West Nile virus is from Mountrail County, not Morton County as originally reported. The following revised news release contains the correct information. The two cases of West Nile virus will be discussed at the media conference call scheduled for 2 p.m. today.*

### **North Dakota Reports First Two Human Cases of West Nile Virus in 2005**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health today announced the state's first two human cases of West Nile virus infection for 2005, according to West Nile Virus Program Manager Tracy Miller.

One patient is a male in his 20s who resides in Stutsman County, and the other is a male 60 or older who resides in Mountrail County. Both patients were hospitalized.

“These cases are a reminder to all North Dakotans of the importance of taking precautions to protect ourselves from mosquitoes,” said Dr. Craig Lambrecht, chief field medical officer for the North Dakota Department of Health.

To reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes that carry West Nile virus, the state health department recommends the following protective measures:

- Limit outdoor activities between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most likely to bite.
- Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts when possible.
- Eliminate stagnant water and leaf debris in containers around homes where mosquitoes can lay their eggs (e.g., buckets, flowerpots, old tires, wading pools and birdbaths).
- Keep mosquitoes from entering your home by repairing screens in windows and doors.
- Keep the grass around your home trimmed.

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- Use insect repellent that contains ingredients approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. (Read all instructions carefully.)

The following is a summary of West Nile virus activity to date:

- Human cases – 2
  - Total tests conducted – 340
- WNV-positive dead birds – 3
  - Total dead birds tested – 10
- WNV-positive live birds – 6
  - Total samples tested – 492
- WNV-positive horses – 1
  - Total horses tested – 24

West Nile virus activity will be updated Wednesday mornings each week throughout the West Nile virus season on the Department of Health's West Nile virus website at [www.ndwnv.com](http://www.ndwnv.com).

For more information, contact Tracy Miller, North Dakota Department of Health, at 800.472.2180.

*Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at [www.nddohpressroom.gov](http://www.nddohpressroom.gov).*

### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

BISMARCK, N.D. – To answer media questions about the state's first human cases of West Nile virus, the North Dakota Department of Health will hold a telephone media availability Wednesday, July 27, 2005, at 2 p.m. The following department officials will participate in the 2 p.m. conference call:

- Dr. Craig Lambrecht, chief field medical officer
- Kirby Kruger, state epidemiologist
- Tracy Miller, West Nile Virus Surveillance Program manager
- Tim Brosz, microbiologist

To connect to the conference call, the media is asked to dial 866.637.9769. If you have trouble connecting, call the Division of Disease Control at 701.328.2378 or 800.472.2180.

Members of the media who wish to attend in person can meet at 2 p.m. in the AV Room 210 on the second floor of the Judicial Wing located at the State Capitol, Bismarck N.D.

For more information about the conference call, contact Loreeta Leer Frank or Stacy Eberl at 701.328.2372.

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